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AFGHANISTAN. 7 Feb.—The King's personal envoy to Mr Jinnah, Sardar Najibullah Khan, broadcasting on his return from Karachi, said that Pakistan and Afghanistan were negotiating a treaty of friendship. While in Karachi he had discussed the exchange of Ambassadors and commercial agreements, including transit facilities and border questions.

ALBANIA. 20 Feb.—Bishops executed (*see Vatican*).

ANTARCTIC. 7 Feb.—Dispute with Argentine and Chile (*see Great Britain*).

16 Feb.—Cruiser leaves (*see Great Britain*). Commons statement (*see Great Britain*). Minister's statement (*see Chile*).

The *John Biscoe*, belonging to the Falklands Dependencies Survey, reached Admiralty Bay, King George Island, South Shetlands. An expedition began the erection of a new hut at the British base reopened a month earlier, to house the occupation party of four. The commander of the recently established Argentine hut delivered two protests against the 'unauthorized entry' of a British ship into 'Argentine waters' and the erection of a hut in 'Argentine territory'. Notes asserting British sovereignty were delivered in reply.

17 Feb.—The President of Chile, Dr Videla, arrived in the naval transport *Presidente Pinto* at the Chilean Antarctic base on Greenwich Island. In a broadcast to the Chilean people the President stated: 'Under the strange solitude and silence of these polar lands we feel the intimate and patriotic satisfaction of treading Chilean soil occupied by our gallant soldiers, sailors, and airmen.' He referred to 'worn-out imperialisms which threaten to rob Chile and the rest of the Americas of their lands by aggression and armed violence', and added that the Americas were now armed and united against aggression from a power outside the American continent. He spoke of the 'extra-continental power, which, frightened by Europe in convulsions, seeks to trample on the principles of the United Nations and the international law of the Americas.'

Marine Minister's statement (*see Argentine*).

18 Feb.—Dispute (*see Argentina, Chile, Falkland Islands, U.S.A.*).

The Chilean President inaugurated a second Chilean 'military base' on Graham Land.

20 Feb.—President Videla said the only purpose of his visit was to consecrate with deeds the Chilean possession of territory which belonged to it by right.

ARAB LEAGUE. 9 Feb.—The Council met in Cairo.

12 Feb.—The Council met in Cairo with the Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, attending.

It was learned that the Mufti would be allowed to attend all meetings at which Palestine was discussed.

14 Feb.—*Palestine*. The Secretary General, Abdurrahmann Azzam Pasha, stated that there was no truth in reports that it was the policy or intention of the League that regular armies of the Arab States should now intervene in the Palestine struggle. They regarded that struggle

as a civil war in which the Zionists were attempting to seize a part of Palestine. The Arab States were giving and of course would give every assistance to the Palestinian Arabs only if foreign armies invaded the country and tried to impose partition by force.

The League approved the formation of a committee to direct Palestinian affairs. It would be independent of the League and its composition subject to the approval of the Palestinian Arabs. General Ismail Safwat (Iraq) was to be responsible to the committee.

20 Feb.—*Yemen*. Two delegates of the League were dispatched to San'a to investigate the situation (*see also Egypt and Great Britain*).

ARGENTINA. 7 Feb.—On the resumption of negotiations agreement was reached between the British trade mission and the Argentine representatives. At a reception afterwards on board the S.S. *Andes* President Perón accepted the suggestion of Sir Reginald Leeper that it should be called the Andes Agreement.

12 Feb.—*Andes Agreement*. The Anglo-Argentine trade treaty was signed. Britain was to make Argentina a single payment in cash of £10 million for the increased cost of the Argentine products and an advance of £100 million to be repaid in goods, whereupon Argentina would transfer £150 million to the British railway companies to pay for their purchase. Argentina would supply to Britain 1,272,000 tons of maize (of which 300,000 tons might be replaced with barley), 420,000 tons of meat, and other products. Britain would supply 2,585,000 cubic metres of petroleum products, 1 million tons of coal, and stipulated quantities of steel, tinplate, zinc, tin, lead, asbestos, agricultural machinery, cutlery, and chemicals. Argentina would grant import permits for £10 million worth of British goods at present banned on the basis of the most favoured nation principle.

17 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Marine Minister, Rear Admiral Fidel Anadon, stated that the despatch of the *Nigeria* (*see p. 121*) to Antarctic regions was not important because the Southern Seas were habitually visited by vessels flying various flags and British ships predominated owing to British interests in the Falkland Islands. Nevertheless Argentina could not accept Britain's claims.

Andes Agreement. The National Economic Council unanimously approved the Agreement.

18 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Foreign Under-Secretary in a press statement invoked the inter-American Treaty of Mutual Aid, and said that Argentina did not recognize European colonies in the Americas (*see also U.S.A.*).

19 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. A squadron of the Argentine fleet left Ushuaia for the Antarctic. British Naval Commander's statement (*see Venezuela*).

20 Feb.—*Andes Agreement*. Notes of ratification were exchanged with Great Britain.

AUSTRALIA. 7 Feb.—Egg agreement (*see Great Britain*).

16 Feb.—*Northern Territory*. The new Legislative Council compris-

ing 6 elected and 7 appointed members, the latter all heads of Government Departments, held its first sitting at Darwin under the presidency of the Administrator, Mr A. R. Driver.

BALUCHISTAN. 12 Feb.—Jinnah attends Durbar (*see Pakistan*).

14 Feb.—The Governor-General of Pakistan, Mr Jinnah, addressed a royal Durbar at Sibi. He announced that until the Pakistan Constitution was finally worked out in about two years' time, Baluchistan would continue to be governed by himself assisted by an advisory council nominated by him. He said that Britain had 'bound Baluchistan in shackles of backwardness. The administration handed over to us was, on the one hand, quite impervious to the desires and wishes of the people for moral and material progress, and on the other was impatient of criticism and oblivious to the necessity of political reforms of any sort. The people had to content themselves for a long time with a state of political and administrative stagnation.' He added that since independence had been achieved, 'we have not so far seen a single day of peace; we are having to face calamities the parallel of which is not known in the history of the world.'

BELGIUM. 12 Feb.—*Western Union.* The Prime Minister, M. Spaak, made a declaration to the Senate Foreign Affairs Commission in support of a mutual assistance pact in Western Europe covering economic, political, and military affairs. The Commission, except for the Communist member, approved the declaration. M. Spaak said the agreements between the U.S.S.R. and her neighbours could only result in the formation 'of a similar constellation in the West, which could not remain unorganized while Eastern Europe was organizing'. An agreement between Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg could not be regarded as the beginning of an aggressive policy; it was a policy of mutual assistance. 'This mutual assistance agreement will, of course, be a total one in the economic and political fields and also in the military domain, given the fact that one cannot go without the other.' The Anglo-French Dunkirk Treaty had been overtaken by events. Now a much wider agreement was necessary. A condition of effective collaboration was that the problem of Western Germany should be settled in agreement with the Benelux countries, which would, he hoped, be invited to take part in the conference in London on Germany.

17 Feb.—Commercial debt agreement (*see France*).

19 Feb.—*Western Union.* The British Chargé d'Affaires and the French Ambassador handed to the Prime Minister the draft of a treaty for west European co-operation. He in return handed to them a joint Benelux memorandum on the political and economic aspects of Mr Bevin's proposal.

Reporting in favour of the Marshall Plan and west European co-operation to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber, M. Spaak said the door remained open for good relations with Eastern Europe and expressed satisfaction with the trade agreement just reached with the U.S.S.R. Mr Bevin's proposal was a notable date in the history of Britain

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because Britain was conscious that it belonged to Europe. Up to now Belgium had not received an invitation to take part in the London Conference (see p. 110). The Benelux countries insisted that they should be allowed to send a joint delegation and to join in the discussion on equal terms.

BENELUX. 7 Feb.—*Western Union*. Comments on draft treaty (see *Great Britain*).

12 Feb.—*Western Union* (see *Belgium*).

19 Feb.—*Western Union* (see *Belgium*).

BRITISH WEST INDIES. 19 Feb.—Antarctic dispute (see *Venezuela*).

CANADA. 16 Feb.—The Secretary for External Affairs, Mr St Laurent, replying to questions in the House of Commons referred to the publication of the 'garbled and speculative accounts' of correspondents about the new letters patent affecting the office of Governor-General. He said: 'There has been no communication whatsoever from his Majesty referring to the manner in which it would be agreeable to him to have letters of credence to Canadian Ambassadors and Ministers dealt with since 19 May 1947, and there has been no communication at any time that would amount to an intrusion by the British Government in our foreign politics. The right to advise his Majesty in prerogative matters resides exclusively in the Government of Canada.'

CHILE. 16 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Foreign Under-Secretary, Sr Manuel Trucco, said in a statement 'Chile wishes to continue to seek a friendly settlement in the Antarctic dispute with Britain'.

17 Feb.—President's voyage and broadcast (see *Antarctic*).

19 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Foreign Under-Secretary disputed Mr Marshall's declaration that the Pan-American Treaty did not cover the dispute and said that Chile would maintain the position, as stated in the third article of the Pan-American Treaty that 'an attack against one American state is an attack against all'.

Naval commander's statement (see *Venezuela*).

CHINA. 18 Feb.—Aid programme (see *U.S.A.*).

19 Feb.—*Manchuria*. Generals Wan Fu-lin, Chang Tso-hsiang, and Ma Chan-shan were invited to Nanking by the Government for a military conference.

20 Feb.—Marshall statement (see *U.S.A.*).

CEYLON. 10 Feb.—The Duke of Gloucester opened the new Parliament of the Dominion in the presence of the accredited representatives of 25 nations, including the U.S.S.R. A message from the King was read saying: 'My thoughts are with you on this memorable occasion for it is with heartfelt gladness that we welcome a new member, fully grown to nationhood, of the British Commonwealth of Nations.'

CONFERENCE ON AFRICA. 17 Feb.—The Conference between British and French officials on colonial co-operation in Africa opened in Paris. It was stated that it was only the natural development of contacts which had been going on between the two countries for the last three years, concerned with economic questions in their respective African territories.

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (LONDON). 20 Feb.—Reply to Soviet note (*see France*).

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (PRAGUE). 17 Feb.—Opening speeches of the Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia were issued for publication. All three emphasized their desire to promote a general settlement of the German question and urged that attempts at a unilateral settlement could not bring lasting peace. M. Masaryk (Czechoslovakia) declared that though Germany was not a direct danger to world security today it remained potentially dangerous and this danger must be removed for ever. M. Modzelewski (Poland) said that the identity of views of the three states made it possible for them to reach a decision which would prove their desire to promote general and lasting peace. M. Simic (Yugoslavia) regretted that the western Powers were 'quietly continuing their destructive policy of reviving German imperialism in the Western zones'.

18 Feb.—The conference was concluded. A statement requested that the four-power declaration on Germany of 5 June 1945 be carried out, and said that the Council of Foreign Ministers was alone competent to deal with Germany. It concluded: 'Respect for the principles of quadri-lateral control of the whole of Germany and of consulting Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia and other interested States in questions directly concerning them constitutes a guarantee of durable peace and European security.'

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (WESTERN). 12 Feb.—Benelux views (*see Belgium*).

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 10 Feb.—*Italian Colonies.* The four deputies met in London to discuss the order in which they would hear the views of the other Governments interested. The requested memorandum was received from the Italian Government giving its views on the boundary between British Somaliland and the territory around Bender Ziada. It was agreed to ask the Commission of investigation now in Somalia to look into the matter and consult the chiefs of the local tribes for whose produce the port was the most convenient outlet.

18 Feb.—*Italian Colonies Commission. Riots (see Tripolitania).*

20 Feb.—*Deputies' discussion on German assets in Austria.* The four deputies met in London. M. Koktormov (U.S.S.R.) put forward new proposals which included the suggestion of a monetary payment by Austria to the U.S.S.R. of \$200 million within two years in freely convertible currency. Other proposals would allow Russia to take, for fifty

years, oil to the amount of two-thirds of the present production, and give them, for the same period, two-thirds of prospecting rights in eastern Austria. (The French suggested half of the present production and one third of the Zistersdorf production for twenty-five years.) In addition, the U.S.S.R. wished to take over refineries with a total capacity of 450,000 tons (against the French proposal of a capacity of 250,000-300,000 tons). They also wished to have all the assets of the Danube Shipping Company in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria and 25 per cent of the assets of the company in Austria. (The French suggested the Soviet Union should have the holdings of the company in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria.) The U.S.S.R. made a number of stipulations. They wished that there should be no nationalization of former German assets without Soviet consent, and that Austria should not have the right to say how much of the oil it produced was to be exported. The U.S.S.R. also wished to stipulate that it would not accept the liabilities of any of the concerns that it takes over. All disputes should be settled 'by means of bilateral negotiations between the interested parties'. M. Koktomov, when questioned on the proposal to take 25 per cent of the assets of the Danube Shipping Company, made it clear that this was in all Austria, not only the eastern zone. He argued that since the U.S.S.R. had not pressed for all assets in the eastern zone, it could claim for 25 per cent in the whole of Austria.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 11 Feb.—Speaking in the National Assembly, the Foreign Minister, M. Masaryk, regretted the 'negative result' of the talks in Berlin on the bizonal charter, which constituted a certain danger for Czechoslovakia. The charter gave the Germans plenty of possibility for action without burdening them with any responsibilities. The revised industrial plan would enable Germany, in contravention of the Potsdam agreement, to raise its standard of living beyond that possible for the States damaged by the war.

14 Feb.—Conference on Germany (*see Poland*).

18 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. The Communist Party issued a manifesto accusing non-Communists of plotting to break up the National Front Government and to replace it by a Government of Civil Servants, so as to interfere with the free conduct of the forthcoming election. It assured the public that the Communists were determined to safeguard democracy by securing a real National Front Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, M. Gottwald.

19 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. Short strikes of protest were organized in various places. The Czech Socialist Party, the Peoples' Party, and the Slovak Democrat Party announced that they would withdraw from meetings of the Cabinet and the National Front unless a recent Cabinet decision to forbid the victimization of non-Communists in the police force was first put into operation.

20 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. The Czech Socialist, People's Party, and Slovak Democrat Ministers decided to resign from the National Front Government, following the refusal of the Prime Minister, M. Gottwald (Communist), to allow Cabinet orders to be sent to M. Nosek

(Communist) to cease driving non-Communists out of the police. The organ of the Czech Socialists, *Svobodne Slovo*, in an article, attacked the 'police state' and accused the police of methods 'as bad as those of Himmler and the Tsarist Okhrana'.

DENMARK. 7 Feb.—Prime Minister in Stockholm (*see Northern Conference*).

14 Feb.—*European Economic Co-operation*. The Anglo-French mission visiting E.R.P. countries concluded its talks in Copenhagen. It was stated that the Danish Government promised its assistance.

17 Feb.—King Haakon of Norway arrived in Copenhagen on a three days' official visit.

EGYPT. 11 Feb.—Egypt was officially declared free from cholera.

EIRE. 12 Feb.—*General Elections*. The 5 outstanding results (*see p. 77*) were Fianna Fail, 2; Fine Gael, 2; National Labour, 1.

18 Feb.—*New Government*. The new Dail met. Mr John A. Costello was elected Taoiseach in place of Mr de Valera, who was defeated by 75 votes to 70. Fine Gael—Prime Minister, Mr Costello; Education, Gen. Mulcahy; Finance, P. McGilligan; Justice, Gen. Sean MacEoin; Defence, Dr T. F. O'Higgins; Industry and Commerce, Daniel Morrissey. Labour—Deputy Premier, William Norton; Local Government, T. J. Murphy. Clann na Poblachta (New Republicans)—External Affairs, Sean MacBride; Health, Dr Noel Browne. Farmers—Lands and Forests, J. Blowick. National Labour—Posts and Telegraphs, J. Everett; Agriculture, J. M. Dillon.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 7 Feb.—Customs Union (*see France*). Lange statement (*see Norway*). Scandinavian co-operation (*see Northern Conference*). T.U.C. proposal (*see W.F.T.U.*).

9 Feb.—*Manpower Conference*. The conference was concluded in Rome (*see p. 77*). It was mainly of an exploratory character, but an Italian proposal was accepted to create a permanent manpower organization in Rome, as was a British proposal for an international system of occupational classification. The main tasks of the permanent organization would be to co-ordinate all information concerning the supply of and demand for manpower, to examine emigration problems with national committees, to expedite and simplify the preparation of travel documents, and to set up centres to promote vocational training and to teach languages to prospective emigrants. The Italian Government agreed to provide premises and part of the staff. It was found that the total number of workers needed in 1948 by countries deficient in manpower was estimated at 380,000 compared with 677,000 three months previously. It was estimated that during 1948 about 2 million workers would be available from the surplus manpower countries, including 1.7 million Italians, mostly unskilled, and 300,000 D.P.s.

11 Feb.—Consultations on Africa (*see France*).

12 Feb.—Italo-French Report (*see Italy*).

13 Feb.—Official statement (see U.S.A.). Marshall speech (see U.S.A.).

14 Feb.—(see also U.N. Economic Commission for Europe). Anglo-French mission (see Denmark).

17 Feb.—Anglo-French colonial co-operation (see Conference on Africa).

20 Feb.—Financial talks (see Great Britain).

EUROPEAN UNITY CONFERENCE. 13 Feb.—Labour attitude (see Great Britain).

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 18 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Governor, Sir Miles Clifford, returned to Port Stanley from a second visit to the Dependencies in H.M. sloop *Snipe* (see also *Antarctic*).

19 Feb.—Naval commander's statement (see *Venezuela*).

FRANCE. 7 Feb.—*European Economic Co-operation*. The Council of Ministers approved the report on an economic and customs union between France and Italy drawn up by a Franco-Italian Committee.

Western Union. Comments on draft treaty (see Great Britain).

It was announced that the frontier with Spain would be reopened for land, sea, and air passenger traffic, and for postal, telegraphic, and telephone communications, from midnight, 9-10 February (see II, p. 127). From 1 March the transit of merchandise through France to Spain and vice versa would be permitted. The French and Spanish Governments would open immediate negotiations for an economic and commercial agreement.

11 Feb.—*European Economic Co-operation*. In an interview published by *Paris Presse* Sir Stafford Cripps was quoted as saying that Anglo-French consultations were under way for the creation of an economic grouping in which Western Europe would be linked with the African continent. This *bloc* would be an element of economic equilibrium between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.

Franc Devaluation. Preliminary statistics were published by the Ministry of Finance on the recall of the 5,000-franc notes. They showed that 5 per cent of depositors handed in nearly 35 per cent of the notes.

12 Feb.—*Ministerial Appointments*. Education, M. Edouard Depreux, vice M. Nargelen, appointed Governor-General, Nigeria; War, M. Max Lejeune, vice M. Bechard, appointed Governor-General, French West Africa.

13 Feb.—*Foreign Policy*. The Foreign Minister, M. Bidault, in a statement in the Chamber, referred to the division of Europe which 'cannot be called definitive but which is of immense disadvantage to the rest of the world'. He said: 'France is above all a European country and it is not possible to contemplate Europe without France'; and the French mission to-day was to make France the champion of European union. 'When I speak of Europe, I mean all Europe.' For between France and the other countries the moral and material ties were too close to admit of division.

U.S. Aid. He expressed the gratitude of the French people to the U.S.A. for the 'indispensable' aid which had been forthcoming, as well as the intention of France to accept more aid 'in the same conditions of independence'.

Britain. He then emphasized the close co-operation and community of outlook between France and Great Britain. This co-operation was the mainspring of the sixteen-Power conference, and it remained the basis of France's European policy. 'Nothing in the future can separate Great Britain and France; the *entente cordiale* has become the immutable alliance.' There was no other solution for Europe and therefore for peace but that the two countries should have a common existence.

Customs Union. He recalled the policy enunciated by the French Government at the sixteen-Power Conference last summer. So far Italy had been the only country to respond; a Franco-Italian Customs union was to be fashioned which could not fail to be of paramount importance to Europe as well as to the two countries. British co-operation in the creation of Customs unions was essential. He hoped that it might be possible to 'go further and quicker than our friends have so far agreed to go'.

Germany. 'People must work for the integration of a peaceful Germany in a united Europe.' France was opposed to the reconstitution of the unitary Reich of Bismarck and Hitler. What was the use of insufficient controls or of controls which would disappear? France wanted something new and workable. She recognized the rights of Germany to a decent life, but could not allow that she be given any priority over her victims. 'We do not want a centralized Reich.' France's requirements were: an occupation, unlimited in time, of the Rhine provinces; the limitation or suppression of certain industries; an international régime for the Ruhr; and a just distribution of its coal. 'A federal Germany, an efficiently controlled Ruhr, such are the essential conditions for our security.'

14 Feb.—A Polish Note was received protesting against the arrest of Polish citizens in France.

Soviet Protest on German conference (*see Great Britain*).

17 Feb.—An agreement was signed for the settlement of the French commercial debt to Belgium, enabling trade exchanges to be resumed.

Anglo-French colonial co-operation (*see Conference on Africa*).

Balance of Payments. The Prime Minister, M. Schuman, in an address to representatives of exporting industries, said that with the promise of a good harvest there was ground for hoping that the second half of this year would see France well on her feet. Even in the most favourable circumstances, however, France had to buy a great deal abroad. The facilities offered by U.S.A. would ease the burden of payment, but the deficit in the French balance of payments was about \$120 million a month on an inadequate import programme and the amount of U.S. interim aid was \$284 million for the period mid-December to 1 April. French export prospects had never been so good. Purchasers fell into two classes: those, formerly rich, who now wanted France to provide them with the essentials that they lacked; and those

who, having developed new wealth in the last few years, knew they could only consolidate it if they could establish it on a foundation of industrialization and thus acquire the means to purchase abroad. These countries would, in time, provide a market for French luxury goods. But keeping prices low was the essential requirement of the French export trade, whatever its destination.

19 Feb.—The Government Bill for preventing unwarranted price increases was adopted by the Assembly.

Western Union (*see Belgium*).

20 Feb.—*Conference on Germany*. The Government published its reply to the Soviet protest. There was nothing in agreements to which France was a party to prevent the Government from consulting with other Governments interested in German affairs. Since four-Power agreement had not been obtainable it was natural that the Government should attempt, in common with the British and U.S. Governments, 'to find a solution to a situation which causes the gravest anxiety'.

Saar agreement (*see Great Britain*).

FRENCH CONGO. 7 Feb.—An international conference on the tsetse fly, begun on 2 February, was concluded at Brazzaville. Great Britain, France, Belgium, South Africa, Portugal, Liberia, and Southern Rhodesia were represented. It was decided to set up permanent offices at Brazzaville and at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.

GERMANY. 7 Feb.—*Bizonal Régime*. The Prime Minister of North-Rhine-Westphalia, Herr Karl Arnold (C.D.U.), dismissed from his cabinet the two Communist Ministers, Hrn Hugo Taul and Heinz Renner, who had refused to dissociate themselves from the statement by Communists in the Landtag that Germans who accepted or helped to frame the Frankfurt decisions were guilty of high treason.

10 Feb.—Director's letter on food problem (*see Great Britain*).

11 Feb.—*Allied Control Council*. Proposals for monetary reform for the whole of Germany were discussed. Marshal Sokolovsky (U.S.S.R.) read a long statement criticizing the newly established economic organization for the bizonie.

Reparations. It was announced that the Russians had begun delivery of goods due to the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency from the Soviet zone under the Potsdam agreement.

Bizonal Régime. Masaryk statement (*see Czechoslovakia*).

The British military train from the zone to Berlin was held up by the Russians on the border.

12 Feb.—The British authorities decided that no more German passengers should travel by the military trains which run between Berlin and the British zone.

London Conference and Benelux (*see Belgium*).

13 Feb.—*Soviet Zone*. The military governor, Marshal Sokolovsky, issued an order defining the purposes, powers, and composition of the Economic Commission (*see II, p. 342*). The Commission was to be composed of a chairman and two vice-chairmen and to have as members,

three representatives of the Federation of Free Trade Unions, three representatives of the Farmers' Mutual Help Societies, representatives of the five States, and the chairman of the several offices of the German central administration. It was to have an executive, consisting of the chairman and vice-chairmen, the chairman of the Federation of Free Trade Unions, and the chairmen of the offices of the central administration for finance, industry, agriculture and forestry, trade, and supply. It was to be entrusted with the examination of questions affecting the revival and development of a peaceful economy and with responsibility for the execution of all scheduled deliveries of goods for reparations and for meeting the needs of the Soviet forces of occupation. It had the right to decide on, put into force, and supervise the execution of any order or instruction, binding on all German organizations within the Zone, in accordance with the regulations laid down by Soviet military government.

Norwegian fish for Germany (*see Great Britain*).

Denazification. Following the condemnation of denazification proceedings by Pastor Niemoeller a clergyman at Wiesbaden refused to appear as a witness against a church leader. He was fined 100 marks for contempt by the denazification tribunal. The tribunal adjourned for lack of evidence.

14 Feb.—*Bizonal Régime.* The military governors signed the charter of the 'Bank of German States', which was empowered to issue a new currency and fulfil most other functions formerly exercised by the Reichsbank. Presidents of the central State banks were to form its board of directors and it was to have control over the monetary and credit policies of the State banks.

The French Commandant in Berlin ordered the confiscation in the French sector of the official organ of the Soviet Military Administration, *Tägliche Rundschau*, the organ of the S.E.D., *Neues Deutschland*, and the Communist *Berliner Zeitung* for publishing a Tass report of the meeting of the Allied Control Council, in which General Koenig was said to have played 'the part of a miserable puppet of the British American representatives on the Council'.

Prague Conference (*see Poland*).

17 Feb.—*Bizone.* The Allied Export-Import Agency announced that a guaranteed sum of \$300 million had been allotted for imports of raw materials during 1948. It was stated that the figure of \$400 million was being used for the year's planning of industrial imports though its full use would depend on the volume of exports. In January new export contracts were signed for more than \$53 million, the largest monthly total yet recorded.

British Zone. Mr Birley, educational adviser, announced that the Military Governor was setting up a commission consisting of about eight nominated Germans, one Briton (not a C.C.G. official), and a representative of a neutral country to consider what contribution the universities and *Hochschulen* were making to the democratic development of Germany and how it might be increased. The universities must be prepared to accept big chances if they were to play their full part in the develop-

ment of Germany. The proportion of working class students was very small indeed and quite unrelated to the nation's needs and the spirit of the times.

Conferences (*see p. 110*).

18 Feb.—*Bizonal Régime*. The U.S. Military Governor, Gen. Clay, refused to accept the Bavarian Diet's nomination of Dr Semmler (*see p. 79*) to the Economic Council.

19 Feb.—*Bizonal Régime*. The Bavarian Diet adopted a motion refusing to nominate a delegate in Dr Semmler's place.

Prague Conference statement (*see p. 110*).

Westphalian Poles (*see Poland*).

War Crimes. After a trial lasting several months sentence was passed on ten military commanders for war crimes committed by troops under their command during the occupation of the Balkan states. Field-Marshal W. von List and General Kuntze were condemned to imprisonment for life, others to sentences from seven to twenty years, while two were acquitted.

20 Feb.—Saar agreement (*see Great Britain*).

GREAT BRITAIN. 7 Feb.—An agreement was signed with Australia providing for increased supplies of shell eggs to the U.K. over a period of five years beginning 1 July 1948.

Andes Agreement (*see Argentina*).

Western Union. French comments on the draft for the proposed treaties with the Benelux countries were received. They suggested minor modifications but in general favoured the draft.

Antarctic Dispute. It was learnt that Britain had protested to Chile as well as Argentina on 17 December 1947, against acts of trespass in the Antarctic, and the establishment of occupied posts by Argentina on Gamma Island, and by Chile on Greenwich Island, in the South Shetlands Group (*see p. 73*). A further protest was made to Argentina on 23 December against the setting up of a post on Deception Island. In his reply on 28 January the Argentine Foreign Minister stated: 'The Falkland Islands are Argentine. The Argentine sector of the Antarctic belongs to the Republic and is Argentine without any need of any declaration of annexation . . . The operations carried out by the Argentine naval expedition, which acted at all times within the Antarctic sector which legitimately belongs to the Republic, were made in their own right and, in consequence, cannot be subjected to any prior arrangement with any foreign authority.'

Balance of Payments. Addressing a meeting at Edinburgh, Sir Stafford Cripps said: 'We have reached a point to-day where we cannot as a nation afford to give any of our people larger incomes unless we are going to get more production as the result. The position has become more critical in the last few months . . . because it is becoming more and more difficult to sell our exports . . . Let me say a word of warning about the Marshall plan. That plan, if it comes about, will be a great gesture of help from the American people. But we cannot and must not use any help that we get merely to improve our own living conditions.'

9 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. Writing in *Labour*, the organ of the T.U.C., Mr Vincent Tewson, its general secretary, said that a good deal of prejudice and misunderstanding had been imported into the discussion of the attitude of the general council of the T.U.C. in seeking an early meeting of the executive bureau of the W.F.T.U. to discuss the Marshal Plan (*see also W.F.T.U.*). 'The general council's firm attitude on this question ought not to be misunderstood. It has been viciously assailed as part of a controversy to wreck the W.F.T.U. In actual fact the general council is fully entitled to answer the charge that it has been slow in giving a clear lead in regard to American aid by an assertion of its loyalty to, and continued efforts to promote, international trade union unity—the very principle which irresponsible critics accuse it of betraying.'

10 Feb.—*Balance of Payments*. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, made a statement to the press on the 1947 balance of payments. He said that last year's deficit on current account, including 'invisible' transactions, amounted to £675 million compared with £380 million in 1946. He referred to the 'menacing gap' existing between overseas expenditure and current earnings and said that in the past year the gap had increased in spite of an expansion in home production and exports. It must be closed by their own efforts, supported, they earnestly hoped, by Marshall aid. If they failed the gap would close itself through the drying up of their essential supplies of food and raw materials, for which they would have no means of paying. 'The strain on our resources is even greater than the overall figure of £675 million suggests. We are bankers to the sterling area and finance the dollar requirements of all sterling area countries. The net drain on our gold and dollar resources (including drawings of the American and Canadian loans) and on the International Monetary Fund in 1947 amounted to £1,023 million (£766 million in 1946). These sterling area reserves had been contributed to by the countries now drawing on them. The sterling countries are working together to reduce their dollar requirements to a minimum and increase their own production. The difficulties created for us by the adverse movements in the terms of trade were strikingly demonstrated in 1947. The adverse visible balance on a f.o.b. basis was £449 million. Had the terms of trade on which we were operating in 1938 obtained last year, this deficit would have been some £300 million less. While the volume of our exports increased by about 10 per cent and the volume of our imports by little more, the increase in the value of our exports was only half the increased cost of our imports. We were still in 1947 receiving only about 75 per cent of the quantity of goods we imported in 1938. Any general rise in prices must be to the disadvantage of a country working on the basis of a deficit in visible trade compensated for by invisible earnings, or balanced, as was our position in 1947, by overseas borrowing. A supreme effort will have to be made this year to remedy our external position. Abnormal world conditions render the task particularly difficult, but there is no alternative: we must either export and earn enough to pay for our food and raw materials, or do without. Upon our capacity to export and earn

depends our capacity to work our way through these trying years, and this in turn means that the competitive power of our products has to be maintained and, if possible, improved.'

German Food Problem. In a letter to *The Times* Dr Schlange-Schoen-ingen, the director of the German administration for food, agriculture, and forestry in the bizon, admitted that German agricultural production was not collected 100 per cent or evenly distributed. The main reasons were: (1) Schedules for delivery by German farmers had been based on too high an estimate of the crop, which was reduced by an estimated 30 per cent on the pre-war average owing to soil exhaustion, to lack of fertilizer, manpower, and beast-power for cultivation, and to the drought. (2) Rumours of currency reform made the farmers unwilling to exchange their products for money. (3) Prices for agricultural produce had been unaltered while those for farm requisites and consumer goods were increased. (4) In any case the goods required by the farmer for the maintenance of his farm could not be bought with money (except at the inflated prices of the Black Market) but only in exchange for foodstuffs, which were thus withheld from collection and fair distribution. (5) The German administration had responsibilities but lacked authority. In practice the enforcement of the laws was decisive principally at the lowest level in the village and in the country. The small burgomaster, confronted with a breach of the law, had not the police under his orders, and if he notified the courts a whole year would pass before the offender was dealt with owing to the lack of judges. (6) Starvation of large parts of the population had caused a decline in morals, and the laws or their enforcement were no longer a matter of concern to the people.

He concluded: 'The food administration is confronted with an almost insoluble task.'

11 Feb.—*Incomes and Prices.* A discussion was held at the House of Commons between a T.U.C. Delegation and the Government, represented by the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Minister of Labour.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, after consideration of the White Paper, decided on a modified demand for wage increases averaging about 14s. a week (*see p. 82*).

Palestine. The Colonial Under-Secretary said in a written reply that to advance the date of entry of the Palestine Commission into Palestine would interfere with the progress of British withdrawal and greatly increase the burden of the civil government in the closing phase of the Mandatory administration. 'It is considered that there is grave danger of an increase in the scale of the disorders now taking place in Palestine as soon as the Commission arrive in that country.'

Memorandum on Arab infiltration (*see United Nations*). Africa and Western Europe (*see France*). German documents (*see U.S.S.R.*). Trade Agreement (*see Netherlands*).

12 Feb.—It was announced that Sir Oliver Franks has been appointed British Ambassador to the U.S.A. in succession to Lord Inverchapel.

Incomes and Prices. Sir Stafford Cripps said in a Commons Debate:

'Under the present Government the British Empire in the old conception of the word is being liquidated, and the British overseas territories are being developed, which is a much better situation.' Referring to the necessity to arrest inflationary tendencies, he announced that he had asked the Federation of British Industries and other organizations representing manufacturers and distributors to work out a plan for price and profit decreases. The President of the Board of Trade would impose a minimum ceiling on manufactured prices of all goods which came within the price control system and which had not already a sufficiently close price control. 'It is impossible to over-emphasize the fact that what we are asking of the nation is the supreme test of our democracy. We must and will fight our way through these difficulties. No one can have any doubt about the seriousness of our situation. While we are in this struggle none of us can afford to improve his standard of living.'

The F.B.I. accepted the Chancellor's invitation.

Andes Agreement (*see Argentina*).

13 Feb.—*European Unity Conference*. A letter from Dr J. H. Retinger, secretary of the international committee of movements for European Unity, Paris, to the chairman of the Labour Party Executive, Mr Shinwell, hoped that the Executive would reconsider its attitude to the attendance of Labour Party members at the European Conference at The Hague in May. It said that a number of leading continental Socialists had already indicated their intention to attend.

14 Feb.—*European Unity Conference*. In a party political broadcast Mr Winston Churchill said, 'I am sorry that certain elements in the Socialist ranks are trying to make the cause of United Europe a monopoly of the Socialist Party. An important conference of supporters of the European cause is being held at The Hague next May. This event has been welcomed by all parties, other than the Communists, throughout the countries of western Europe. Alone, the British Labour Party has decided to discourage its members from attending. When I proclaimed this idea at Zurich in September 1946 I earnestly hoped that it might be at once all-party and above party, but through their petty jealousies and internal divisions the Government are being drawn into the grave and anti-social error of trying to form an exclusive union of the Socialists of Europe. It is a wanton and reckless act for the British Socialist Party to try to paralyse all other efforts but their own, and if they succeed it will involve them in the lasting discredit of having, by their narrowness and bitterness, inflicted injury upon the whole free and civilized world.'

Balance of Payments. In the same broadcast Mr Churchill said: 'It is the duty of every one of us, without distinction of party, to do our utmost to rescue our native land from the dangers, privations, and misfortunes in which she is now plunged, and to increase, to combat inflation, our productive capacity and exporting power by every possible means.'

Antarctic Dispute. The Chilean reply to the British protest was published. It rejected the British offer to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Atom Bomb. The War Office announced that it was planned to build laboratories in the Hiroshima and Kure areas of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan where long-term studies on the effects of the atom bomb could be made. Members of the U.S. National Research Council were making a survey of potential laboratory sites.

Fish for Germany. Agreement was reached with Norway for the purchase by Britain of 110,500 tons of Norwegian fish for consumption in the bizone of Germany during 1948.

Conference on Germany. A Note was received from the U.S.S.R. protesting at the decision to hold three-power talks on Germany in London. It said, 'the calling of such a conference to examine the questions falling within the competence of all the Powers occupying Germany and which concern other European countries would be a violation of the Potsdam agreement and other decisions adopted by the four Powers, under which the responsibility for administering Germany and laying down of policy with regard to Germany is borne jointly by the occupying Powers, and this is incompatible with separate actions. The Soviet Government considers it necessary to bring to the notice of the Government of Great Britain that it will not regard the decisions which will be taken at the meeting as rightful.'

It was learned that similar protests had been sent to France and U.S.A.

16 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute.* The Minister of State, Mr McNeil, announced in the Commons: 'Argentine and Chilean naval forces are at present operating in British waters in the Falkland Island Dependencies with the declared object of enforcing claims to sovereignty in this area. They have also landed parties and are thought to have set up military commands in British territory.' The rejection by Argentina and Chile of their offer to accept the decision of the International Court could only be regarded 'as evidence that they have no confidence in their ability to dispute our legal title'. They were considering the suggestion for an international conference. They were always ready to seek means of settlement by discussion in disputes which arose with friendly governments but when 'ostentatious naval and other demonstrations are made in the areas which everybody knows we consider to be British territory it should not be supposed that we shall overlook the challenge to our authority. Steps are being taken to ensure that the Governor of the Falkland Islands receives the support he needs. Mr Bevin hopes that the Argentine and Chilean Governments will share his desire to avoid provocation in this matter.'

It was announced that H.M. cruiser *Nigeria* had sailed from Simonstown for Antarctic waters. (See also *Antarctic and Chile*.)

17 Feb.—Anglo-French colonial co-operation (see *Conference on Africa*).

Andes Agreement approved (see *Argentina*).

18 Feb.—*Incomes and Prices.* The T.U.C. General Council agreed by a large majority to endorse the Government's policy, provided the Government pursued vigorously and firmly not only the stabilization of wages, but the reduction of profits and prices.

European Recovery Programme. The T.U.C. General Council decided to call [independently of the W.F.T.U.] a conference of trade union centres of Marshall Plan countries in London on 8-10 March to discuss the programme.

19 Feb.—*Defence policy.* A Statement Relating to Defence, 1948 (Cmd. 7327), was published. The total strength of the Services was to be decreased by 31 March 1949 to 716,000 (-224,000), and total expenditure in the year 1948-9 to £692 million (-£200 million). Research and development were to continue to receive the highest priority, particularly general aeronautical research and the development of improved aircraft. Reference was made to supersonic flight and controlled missiles. 'New scientific developments do not modify the basic principles of defence policy but the advent of weapons of mass destruction must profoundly influence both the preparations for and the conduct of war.'

'The R.A.F. must be maintained at a level sufficient to preserve its essential structure and its initial striking power. The Royal Navy, with its air arm, must be enabled to perform its vital role in the control of sea communications and to execute such tasks overseas as are laid upon it. The Army must be in a position to meet its overseas commitments and to provide the organization needed for training its national service intake.'

Trade and Financial Agreements. In a press statement Sir Stafford Cripps said the Government's objectives in all negotiations had been: (1) to secure essential supplies of food and raw materials; (2) to minimize the drain on their reserves, which were also those of the sterling area; (3) to expand international trade or at least prevent its contraction. Bilateralism, which was bound to some extent to be restrictive and was a bad second best, would not be continued any longer than was absolutely essential. It was obvious that the convertibility of sterling could not be fully restored until there was a better balance of production between countries than existed now.

A cultural convention with Norway was signed, resembling those already concluded with Belgium and Czechoslovakia.

Antarctic Dispute (see *Antarctic, Chile, Venezuela*).

European Recovery Programme. T.U.C. Proposal (see *U.S.A. and W.F.T.U.*).

Western Union (see *Belgium*).

20 Feb.—*Coal.* The executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers decided by a large majority to continue the extended working time agreement until 30 April 1949.

European Economic Co-operation. At an informal meeting of British and European financial representatives at the Treasury, currency problems were discussed with particular reference to facilitating trade between west-European countries without the use of gold or dollars.

Antarctic Dispute (see *Antarctic, Argentina, and Guatemala*).

Andes Agreement. Notes of ratification exchanged (see *Argentina*).

Saar Agreement. It was announced that British, U.S., and French experts had reached agreement in Berlin in January and February on three points raised by the integration of the Saar into the French economy. Coal—The agreement (see p. 79) had been notified to the coal

committee of the European Co-operation Conference at Geneva. Reparations—Calculations had been made to assess the amount which would be taken from the French share of reparations in capital equipment in view of the separation of the Saar from the German economy. The Allied Control Authority and the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency would be informed of the agreed conclusion. Trade with the bizon—As from 1 April, the trade between the Saar and western Germany would be treated as foreign trade. However, the decreasing quantities of coal which the Saar would continue to deliver to Germany would be paid for in marks as in the past. The commercial relations between the French zone and the British and U.S. zones have been reviewed. The trade agreements now in force would be revised in the light of the new situation resulting from the economic separation of the Saar. A joint commission would be set up to follow periodically the developments of the trade exchanged during 1948, which would continue as heretofore in marks.

Yemen. It was stated that the report of the death of the Imam Yahya, ruler of the Yemen, was now accepted as correct. Abdulla al-Wazir, a Minister, was said to have been acclaimed as successor, and a 'constitutional, responsible Government based on the Sharia and a representative Parliament' established (*see also Arab League and Egypt*).

GREECE. 7 Feb.—The Prime Minister, M. Sophoulis, stated that the appointment of Lieut-Gen. James Van Fleet as chief of the U.S. advisory and planning group (announced 6 February) was looked on as a further expression of U.S. concern in the coming anti-guerrilla drive.

10 Feb.—Communist forces shelled Salonika, killing one British soldier and three Greek civilians and wounding two British soldiers and nine Greek civilians.

12 Feb.—It was announced that after a two-day battle in the Langhada area Government troops supported by tanks, artillery, and aircraft had killed or captured nearly 300 of the rebel band which shelled Salonika.

Admiral Conolly, commander-in-chief, U.S. naval forces, east Atlantic and Mediterranean, arrived in Athens for consultation with U.S. and Greek officials.

16 Feb.—Report on U.S. Aid. (*see U.S.A.*)

20 Feb.—After a debate in which they were criticized for lack of determination, the Government received a vote of confidence in the Chamber of 190 votes to 90. The Prime Minister, M. Sophoulis, said the Army was now fully equipped, thanks to U.S. help, and could pass from the defensive to the offensive.

GUATEMALA. 20 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute.* The Foreign Ministry announced Guatemala's entire support for Argentina and Chile.

HUNGARY. 16 Feb.—The People's Court sentenced M. Charles Peyer, Social Democrat leader, in absence abroad, to 8 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to overthrow the democratic republic. M. Robert

Gebor, police lieutenant, was sentenced to death and M. Pisky Schmidt, journalist, to 10 years' hard labour, both in absence. Miss Elizabeth Pellos, a U.S. citizen, was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment.

20 Feb.—Thirty-five right-wing members of the Social Democratic Party resigned; five were expelled, including a former Under Secretary, Kelemen, who was arrested and charged with disloyalty.

ICELAND. 7 Feb.—(See Northern Conference).

INDIA. 7 Feb.—*Gandhi Assassination*. It was stated that Bombay police investigations had shown that the plot to kill Gandhi was country-wide in character, involving a large number of persons already arrested. Arms and explosives had been discovered in Poona.

The Government declared unlawful the Muslim League National Guards and the Khaksars (a militant Muslim organization). It was stated that they must share the blame for creating a poisonous atmosphere in the country which it was the determination of the Government to eradicate. Since independence they had been persisting in their propaganda of communal hatred and violence. 'The Government wishes to make it clear that this action is not aimed at the Muslim community in any way. India has now gained independence, and all sections of her people must now rely for the protection of their lives, property, and civic rights on the forces of the State and not on any private armies. The Government has repeatedly declared that India is to be a secular State, in which all communities, irrespective of their strength, religion, and culture, shall enjoy equal rights. The Government repeats its determination to afford all minorities in India the fullest possible protection against any unlawful activities. It is confident that this further measure towards eliminating the evils of hate and violence will be regarded by the Muslim community as a decisive step towards ensuring their protection, and not as a measure that will impair it.'

It was announced that the Government had asked the Maharaja of Alwar and his prime minister, Dr N. B. Khare, to keep out of Alwar State while investigations were made into the alleged complicity of R.S.S.S. in the assassination with the support or connivance of the Alwar State administration.

Kashmir. News was received of heavy fighting on the Jammu sector, when 11,000 insurgents attacked the Indian positions around Naoshera, and were beaten off with losses. Indian losses were 29 killed and 91 wounded.

Sikh Union. After a conference at Amritsar with Master Tara Singh, the president of the Shiromani Akali Dal, Gyani Kartar Singh, stated that an overwhelming majority of Sikhs felt that the establishment of full responsible government in all Sikh States, and the formation of a union of such States was the only feasible and workable solution. Any move for a merger of Sikh States with the East Punjab at this stage would be strongly disapproved by Sikh public opinion, but 'nothing should be done in the border province without the full approval and co-operation of the Sikhs'.

10 Feb.—*Gandhi Assassination.* The Red Guards, the volunteer force of the Communist Party, and the Samata Sainik Dal, the volunteer organization of the Scheduled Castes Federation, were declared unlawful by the Bombay Government.

12 Feb.—*Gandhi Assassination.* The Mahatma's ashes were immersed in the Sangam (confluence of the Ganges and Jumna) at Allahabad in the presence of over a million people crowding the banks. Addressing the crowd, Pandit Nehru said the Mahatma had led the country towards her freedom and also had preached against violence and communalism. The way he had freed a downtrodden people was a remarkable achievement unparalleled in history, but to-day 'free India stands humiliated abroad and bruised in her own soul'. Similar ceremonies were held at 50 other places in India and Pakistan.

14 Feb.—*Nehru Broadcast.* The Prime Minister said: 'We have to hold together and fight that terrible poison of communalism that has killed the greatest man of our age . . . That evil has not ended by the killing of Gandhi. It was an even more shameful thing for some people to celebrate this killing in various ways. Those who did so have forfeited their right to be called Indians.' He was distressed beyond measure by whisperings about differences between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and himself. 'Of course there have been for many years past differences between us, temperamental and other, in regard to many problems. But India at least should know that these differences have been overshadowed by the fundamental agreements about the most important aspects of our public life, and that we have co-operated together for a quarter of a century or more in great undertakings. Is it likely that at this crisis in our national destiny either of us should be petty minded and think of anything but the national good?'

The President of the European Association, Mr Rowan Hodge, stated in a broadcast that four weeks before his death Mr Gandhi had approved a suggestion that the association should continue its existence if the European community co-operated with the Government in building up the new state.

Indian States. The United States of Kathiawar were inaugurated at Junagadh, comprising about 450 States with a population of 4 million and covering nearly 35,000 square miles. Under the covenant the rulers surrendered sovereignty, jurisdiction, and territory to the Indian Union and became constitutional heads.

Gandhi Assassination. The working committee of the Mahasabha passed a resolution suspending its political activity and devoting itself to social service and rehabilitation of refugees.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION. 10 Feb.—Traffic conferences attended by officials of 35 air lines opened in Cairo. Matters for discussion were rates and tariffs, conditions of carriage, agency matters, summer schedules, and improvements to the I.A.T.A. air guide.

IRAQ. 19 Feb.—The Government decided to dissolve Parliament

because 'it does not represent the nation and was illegally elected'.

20 Feb.—An Iraqi attendant was wounded when demonstrators, said to be Communists, attacked and burnt out the premises of the British reading room at Sulaimaniya. It was learned that British reading rooms at Hilla and Ramadi were also burnt out.

ITALY. 7 Feb.—The allocations of warships of the Italian Navy to the allied powers were announced. Ships were allotted by a Naval Commission of British, U.S., Soviet, and French representatives to the U.S.S.R. (receiving most ships), Britain, U.S.A., France, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Albania. (It was previously announced by Britain and the U.S.A. that they would not take their share, which would be scrapped in Italy.)

9 Feb.—Manpower conference (*see European Economic Co-operation*).

12 Feb.—The Saragat Socialist Party and the Union of Independent Socialists (Sr Lombardo) agreed to join forces and present a single list at the general election.

European Economic Co-operation. The Italo-French report (*see France*) was unanimously approved by the Council of Ministers.

JAPAN. 7 Feb.—The Government decided to resign *en bloc* as a consequence of dissension within the Social-Democratic party.

13 Feb.—Atom bomb research (*see Great Britain*).

17 Feb.—MacArthur's policy (*see U.S.A.*).

KENYA. 11 Feb.—A small body of African police was forced to open fire on a crowd of 1,000 fanatics, members of a religious sect called Dini Ya Misambwa, which tried to free three men who had been imprisoned as a consequence of a disturbance caused by the sect near a Christian mission a week previously. The assistant superintendent in charge, an Australian, was attacked with clubs and injured. In the shooting 11 demonstrators were killed and 20 wounded.

19 Feb.—The Government banned two African religious sects as dangerous to good government.

KOREA. 16 Feb.—U.S. authorities reported that a Soviet puppet government had been established in Northern Korea. A broadcast from Soviet H.Q. at Pyong Yang had announced that a North Korean people's army had been created and a 'democratic people's republic' declared (*see U.N. Korea Commission*).

NETHERLANDS. 11 Feb.—A trade agreement, including a financial settlement of war-time debts, was concluded with Great Britain. Goods valued at about £70 million were to be exchanged in 1948, including increased quantities of foodstuffs from the Netherlands, and industrial products and resumed coal shipments from Britain.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE. 7 Feb.—The Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, and Norway arrived in Stockholm to take part with the Swedish Prime Minister in a meeting of the co-operation committee of

the Labour movement of the northern countries, and to prepare the agenda for discussion by the Scandinavian Foreign and Trade Ministers (except the Finnish) in Oslo on 24 February.

10 Feb.—The conference was concluded (*see Northern Conference*).

NORWAY. 7 Feb.—The Foreign Minister, Hr Lange, said that Norway would do its share in the E.R.P. It noted with satisfaction that the Marshall Plan was not to entail any alteration in the Norwegian shipbuilding programme. 'A stable democratic and independent Western Europe with free co-operation between sovereign States, can make a great contribution to the attempt to bridge that split between East and West which today makes the world situation so uncertain.'

Prime Minister in Stockholm (*see Northern Conference*).

12 Feb.—*Western Union*. The Foreign Minister, Hr Halvard Lange, said in parliament: 'We belong primarily to Western Europe, but that does not prevent our having good relations and economic interests with countries both in Eastern Europe and in other continents.'

17 Feb.—King's visit (*see Denmark*).

19 Feb.—Cultural Convention (*see Great Britain*).

PAKISTAN. 7 Feb.—Treaty negotiations (*see Afghanistan*).

12 Feb.—The Governor-General, Mr Jinnah, attended a Durbar at Sibi, Baluchistan.

Gandhi: immersion of ashes (*see India*).

14 Feb.—Governor General's speech (*see Baluchistan*).

PALESTINE. 7 Feb.—A British Jewess about to leave for England was abducted by Jews from a house in Tel Aviv.

8 Feb.—The abducted woman was returned unharmed.

9 Feb.—Troops blew up a house in Tel Aviv from which shots had been fired at the police station. In it had been found six armed Jewish supernumerary police who stated that they were guarding the adjoining synagogue. After the demolition 4 Sten guns, 11 magazines, and 4 grenades were found under the rostrum of the synagogue.

The Transjordan Frontier Force was disbanded.

10 Feb.—British troops in Jerusalem used mortar fire to stop fighting which broke out between Arabs and Jews. Six Arabs and one Jew were killed, and nineteen Arabs, six Jews, and two British soldiers wounded.

11 Feb.—Official statements (*see U.S.A. and Great Britain*). Policy questions (*see U.S.A.*).

A schooner carrying 666 illegal Jewish immigrants was brought into Haifa and the immigrants trans-shipped for Cyprus.

12 Feb.—Two British soldiers were reported killed in a clash with a force of some 50 Syrian Arabs on the Syrian frontier. A number of Arabs and Jews were killed and wounded in other incidents.

Mufti in Cairo (*see Arab League*).

13 Feb.—A British sergeant-major was placed under arrest pending inquiries into the deaths of four Jews found shot in an Arab quarter of Jerusalem. The Jewish Agency alleged that the Jews had been arrested

by British soldiers and taken into the Arab area in a vehicle and there left. An Arab High Committee spokesman said the army had nothing to do with their deaths but that they were found to have been heavily armed and were executed by Arab guards. A full inquiry was ordered by the general officer commanding.

14 Feb.—Policy statements (*see U.S.A. and Arab League*).

Armed Jews attacked Sasa, an Arab village near Safad, killed 11 Arabs including 4 children, destroyed 3 houses, and damaged 11.

British troops were confined to barracks after Jewish Agency leaders had informed Palestine Headquarters that killings could not be avoided if armed troops walked around Jewish quarters of the town.

17 Feb.—T.N.T. smugglers sentenced (*see U.S.A.*).

18 Feb.—An explosion in Ramle market place caused the death of six Arabs and injury to thirty-two.

Creech-Jones statement (*see Security Council*).

19 Feb.—A British soldier was killed and another injured in Jerusalem when armed men fired at them and stole their weapons.

20 Feb.—Jews from Hadar Hacarmel, Haifa, began an attack on the Arab lower town with 2-inch mortar shells. Heavy firing followed.

The schooner *Komiomouth*, carrying 705 illegal immigrants, was brought into Haifa harbour, and the immigrants trans-shipped for Cyprus.

PERSIA. 12 Feb.—Muhammad Mas'ud, the owner of the weekly journal *Mardom Emrouz*, who four months previously had made a public offer of 1 million rials to any person or his heir who killed the former Premier Qavam-es-Saltaneh, was murdered.

17 Feb.—The Majlis passed by 79 votes to 6 the bill for the purchase of \$10 million worth of arms from the U.S.A. (*see p. 90*).

POLAND. 7 Feb.—It was announced that the Co-ordination Committee of Democratic Parties had decided to admit the Polish Peasant Party to the pro-Government bloc. M. Jan Niecjo, leader of the party, condemned the former strife between his party and the others in the bloc, promising the fullest support for alliances with the U.S.S.R. and other Slavonic countries, and said that M. Mikolajczyk's policies had now been finally abandoned.

9 Feb.—It was learned that a Conference of Polish Roman Catholic bishops had been held in Warsaw on 5 February under the chairmanship of the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Augustus Hlond, who had just returned from Rome.

M. Wolski, a Communist deputy Minister, said that the Government was willing to reach agreement with the Church but must insist on one main condition, that the Church should cease to interfere in politics. It intended to abide by the principle of religious toleration, but on the question of civil marriages must follow other modern countries where they were obligatory.

14 Feb.—*Conference on Germany*. The Foreign Minister, M. Modzelewski, announced that he would attend a conference of the Polish,

Czechoslovak, and Yugoslav Foreign Ministers to discuss the German problem in Prague on 18 February.

Protest on arrests (*see France*).

19 Feb.—*Westphalian Poles*. It was announced that the military authorities in the British zone of Germany had agreed to allow Poles settled in Westphalia to migrate to Poland for resettlement in the western territories. The first 12,000 were to start to leave early in March.

SPAIN. 7 Feb.—Frontier re-opened (*see France*).

SPANISH MOROCCO. 8 Feb.—Three persons were killed and 8 injured at Tetuan when police fired at a crowd of young Moorish nationalists who were demonstrating against the ban by the Spanish authorities on the return of one of their leaders. Some 50 Moors were arrested.

9 Feb.—Martial law was declared in Tetuan.

14 Feb.—A decree of the Caliph instituted the office of Grand Vizier, as a measure of devolution. The new department would assume responsibility for the conduct of native affairs.

SWEDEN. 10 Feb.—*See Northern Conference*.

11 Feb.—*Western Union*. The Foreign Minister, Hr Uden, said: 'Some quarters in Britain understood my speech (*see p. 91*) to mean that I interpreted Mr Bevin's speech on a West European Union to mean the establishment of a political and military bloc. I have not ventured to interpret or comment on that speech.'

TRIPOLITANIA. 17 Feb.—A riot occurred in Tripoli after the arrest of the President and Secretary of the Qutla (Arab Nationalist) Party and a police raid on its headquarters, in view of information that it had been trying to intimidate sections of the Arab and Italian communities in connection with hearings before the four-power commission. Fire was opened after tear gas had proved ineffective and three civilians were killed. Seven British soldiers, one British police officer, and nine civilians were seriously injured. A curfew was imposed.

TURKEY. 16 Feb.—Report on U.S. Aid (*see U.S.A.*).

20 Feb.—In a Note to Bulgaria, the Government protested against the shooting down ten days previously by Bulgarian coastguards of two Turkish aircraft, resulting in the death of one pilot and injuries to the other. It demanded the return of the wounded pilot and his machine, the return of the body of the dead pilot, and payment of adequate compensation to his family. The Foreign Minister, M. Nejmeddin Sadak, had stated that this was 'an unfriendly and inhuman act'. The pilots, who had lost their way, were obeying signals to land when they were shot down, an act which was 'tantamount to murder'.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

13 Feb.—The Council in committee heard from M. Chernyshev (U.S.S.R.) a demand for Soviet membership of the projected Economic Commission for Latin America, owing to the 'role it has played in settling international problems' and because it was proposed that Britain, France, and the Netherlands should be members. It was pointed out by other delegates that these countries had direct political and economic responsibilities in the region concerned and the U.S.S.R. had not. The application was defeated by twelve votes to three (U.S.S.R., Poland, and White Russia).

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

13 Feb.—A report to the inland transport section noted that the war-time destruction of railway tracks, bridges, roads, and waterways in Europe had been largely made good.

14 Feb.—It was stated by M. Gunnar Myrdal at a press conference that in the international discussion on steel production just ended it had been arranged that a supplementary amount of metallurgical coke should be allotted to Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, and Sweden to make possible an increased output of steel in Europe in 1948. The coke output, particularly in the Ruhr, was to be increased by about 45 per cent at the expense of other grades of coal. Government returns showed the total requirements of steel in 1948, excluding Germany, at 45 million tons. Output in 1947 was 32.2 million tons and it was hoped to raise this in 1948 to 41.2 million.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

17 Feb.—The fourth conference of the European national committees opened in Rome. It was attended by delegates and observers from 18 nations, including Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. Yugoslavia was absent.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 Feb.—The Secretary General announced that this year's regular session would be held in Paris.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

19 Feb.—*Korea.* The Chairman of the Korea Commission, Mr K. P. S. Menon (India), reported against a programme of national independence for Korea as recommended by the Assembly. The Russians had refused to give the Commission any facilities in Northern Korea and the majority of the Commission felt that the emergence of a so-called National Government on the basis of elections held in South Korea only would neither be in conformity with the Assembly's resolution nor facilitate its objective of a unified independent Korea. He presented an alternative plan, which had the support of virtually all South Korean political groups, for a Conference between selected political leaders of

North and South Korea with a view to the establishment of national unity. He felt that 'Hodge-baiting, the fashionable hobby in Korea, is a more healthy sign of democracy than MacArthur-worship in Japan'.

The U.S. delegate gave notice that he would take the line that it was the Commission's duty to carry out the tasks assigned by the Assembly where physically practicable.

KOREA COMMISSION

16 Feb.—The Commission reported that the Soviet military authorities, in addition to refusing to receive the Commission, had refused to accept any written communications from it (*see also Korea*).

19 Feb.—Chairman's report (*see Interim Committee*).

PALESTINE COMMISSION

7 Feb.—It was decided to approach the British Government directly for permission to take preliminary steps for the formation of a Jewish militia before the Mandate ended.

10 Feb.—A letter from Sir Alexander Cadogan (Great Britain) said his Government would welcome an opportunity for discussion with members of the Commission in London, and reasonable facilities would be granted for a nucleus of the Commission's staff to visit Palestine before 1 May. The Commission was warned that the food situation in Palestine was very serious and that it should take steps to replenish diminishing stocks. If not replenished by 1 March, wheat stocks would be exhausted.

11 Feb.—The Secretary-General announced that he had authorized the departure to Palestine at a very early date of four officials as an advance party of the Secretariat of the Palestine Commission. Their function would be to conduct preliminary negotiations on technical matters with the Palestine Government.

A memorandum was received from the British authorities confirming that a party of 700 armed Arabs, believed to be under the command of Fawzi Al-Qawuqji, had penetrated into the Samaria area, where the total of armed Arabs was now about 1,400.

16 Feb.—Second report (*see Security Council*).

18 Feb.—Creech-Jones statement (*see Security Council*).

19 Feb.—Mr Creech-Jones (Great Britain) said he thought that locally raised militias would be inadequate to enable the Commission to fulfil its tasks. If they tried to create a militia solely composed of Jews this was likely to provoke serious reaction among Arabs in the Jewish State. The British authorities could not undertake to negotiate with any 'shadow government' which the Commission might try to set up before the Mandate ended. He believed the Trusteeship Council should have plenty of time between now and 15 May to make arrangements for security in Jerusalem.

SECURITY COUNCIL

10 Feb.—*Kashmir Dispute*. Sir Gopalaswami Ayyengar (India) asked for a month's adjournment of the hearings of the dispute, to enable the

Indian delegation to return to Delhi for consultations with his government. He said that India had impressed upon the Council repeatedly that a decision was a matter of immediacy if the situation in India was not to deteriorate gravely, but the one thing which needed urgently to be done was just what India had not been able to get the Council to do—direct Pakistan to cease assistance to the raiders and rebels in Kashmir. In these circumstances an adjournment could do no harm. With reference to the resolution which the President had submitted to the Indian and Pakistan delegations on 6 February he said the long-term proposals put forward by members of the council were not acceptable at the moment to India. India refused to accept that Sheikh Abdullah's emergency administration in Kashmir should be replaced either now or when it became a Council of Ministers. India refused to abdicate its responsibility for a frontier area of Indian territory by withdrawing its troops when the fighting ceased. They would remain in Kashmir until the plebiscite had been held. India also declined to invite the Pakistan Army to share its responsibility for law and order in Kashmir, just as Britain refused to have a Jewish militia in Palestine so long as it remained the mandatory Power. Finally, he said, India could not agree that the role of the United Nations in the projected plebiscite should give it any executive authority inside Kashmir. The Indian delegation had sent the resolution to Delhi, and had been instructed that 'as some of the proposals differ fundamentally from the submissions and suggestions made on behalf of India, the Government wish to discuss the whole position with you and your colleagues of the delegation personally before determining their attitude'.

Mr Noel-Baker (Great Britain) expressed the hope that during the adjournment the Council would attempt to work out a complete scheme for discussion with the two parties when the Indian delegation returned.

Mr Warren Austin (U.S.A.) hoped that the Indian delegation, 'if it returns', would appreciate that trends in the Security Council were never toward taking sides in a war but of giving fair consideration to all the circumstances.

The Council refused a suggestion by India that it sit late that night to decide the request for an adjournment, and decided by nine votes to none—the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine abstaining—that it would continue the discussion next day.

11 Feb.—Kashmir Dispute. Mr Noel-Baker (Great Britain) appealed to the Indian delegation to stay at Lake Success for a few days and try to hammer out with their colleagues from Pakistan a complete settlement. The Chinese delegate proposed the adjournment of the Council until 1 March. Dr Lopez (Columbia) said that the Indian delegation had obviously been shaping their course for home from the moment when they realized that the Council were not disposed to do what India wanted—namely to take action against Pakistan without troubling about the conditions of the accession plebiscite which was eventually to be held in Kashmir. Once the Council agreed that a party to a dispute of this importance might go home at any stage it thought fit, nobody could

be under any illusion that a precedent threatening the stability of the Council's authority had not been established.

12 Feb.—*Kashmir Dispute*. China withdrew its resolution for an adjournment. The President said that every formal action by the Council constituted a precedent and no such precedent in the sense desired by India should be created. But a settlement evidently required that the Indian delegation should return to Delhi and discuss with their Government in the fullest detail the consensus of opinion in the Council.

The Security Council adjourned its discussion of the dispute but asked the Indian delegation to return as soon as possible. Pakistan's complaints with regard to the state of Junagadh and other matters were to be taken up on 18 February.

16 Feb.—*Palestine Commission. Second Report to Council*. The situation in Palestine was grave and deteriorating. The Commission had approached the Security Council because there was nothing that, under the Assembly's resolution, it could do between now and the termination of the mandate to improve it. 'They accordingly must emphasize the compelling need for prompt action in order to avert great bloodshed and human suffering in Palestine, and to assist in the implementation of a resolution which the commission, notwithstanding all the difficulties, are exercising every effort to carry out. A basic issue of international order is involved. A dangerous and tragic precedent will have been established if force, or the threat of force, is to prove an effective deterrent to the will of the United Nations. The security forces of the mandatory Power, which at present prevent the situation deteriorating completely into open warfare on an organized basis, must be replaced by an adequate non-Palestinian force, which will assist the law-abiding elements, both in the Arab and Jewish communities, organized under the general direction of the Commission, in maintaining order and security in Palestine, thereby enabling the commission to carry out the recommendations of the Assembly. Otherwise, the period following the termination of the mandate will be one of uncontrolled widespread strife and bloodshed in Palestine, including the city of Jerusalem.' The Commission would be unable to establish security and order, unless military forces were made available to it on the termination of the mandate. There was an organized effort, 'of which the commission has no reason to doubt the determination or force', of strong Arab elements, inside and outside Palestine, to prevent the implementation of the Assembly's plan of partition, and to thwart its objectives by threats and acts of violence, including armed incursions into Palestinian territory. 'Certain elements in the Jewish community continue to commit irresponsible acts of violence which worsen the security situation. Then there is the complication that the mandatory Power, which remains responsible for law and order until the termination of the mandate, is engaged in the liquidation of its administration and preparing for the evacuation of its troops. After 15 May, armed aggression against Palestine will be resisted by British forces only if it constitutes an attack on them or their communications. The police of some 4,000 British, Jews, and Arabs will have ceased to exist. Their

equipment, arms, and stores will be left for the commission. The only security forces remaining will be small detachments of Jewish and Arab civil guards, armed with small weapons, who have been or are being organized for the protection of life and property in the Jewish and Arab areas respectively, and the Commission is fully aware that the Arab guards may prove to be hostile to them. The militia of the Jewish State, if and when it is adequately armed and equipped, can be responsible only for the implementation of that State. It would be contrary to the Assembly's plan if the militia were to be used on the other side of the border for preventive and retaliatory action. On the other side of the border the attitude of the Arab Higher Committee creates a situation the consequences of which must be faced. Under present circumstances the commission would not be able to select and establish in the proposed Arab State the provisional Government which would act under the general direction of the Commission and at the same time enjoy enough popular support to function effectively. It would be equally impossible under the present circumstances to establish in the Arab State an armed militia over which the Commission could exercise, in the words of the Assembly resolution, 'general political and military control'. That leads the Commission to comment that should power in the territory of the Arab State be seized by forces hostile to the General Assembly's plan and beyond the control of the Commission, then the provisions of the resolution affecting the economic union as well as the Arab State will be unfulfilled and the establishment of a Jewish State and of an international régime for the city of Jerusalem will be gravely jeopardized. 'If the authority of the Commission cannot extend to all these entities an entirely new situation arises to which the commission has a duty to draw the attention of the Security Council.' The Commission makes clear that it could not carry out the first duty assigned to it on arrival in Palestine—the establishment of the frontiers of the three entities. It would not be able to work under the protection of the security forces of the mandatory Power, which takes the position that such work, being in the nature of implementation, may be undertaken only after the mandate is terminated. In view of the Arab opposition, 'an entirely untenable situation would be created if the boundary commission had to rely on the security forces of the other party for its protection'. That the Commission should have their general freedom of action, their very liberty of movement, dependent exclusively on the protection they receive from only one side 'would be contrary to the dignity of a commission of the United Nations endowed with powers of direction and control over the very authorities from which it would have to ask protection.' As for the city of Jerusalem, conceived as a demilitarized enclave in the proposed Arab State, it would be incapable of defending itself against attacks if the British security forces were not replaced by another non-Palestinian force. To invite even a regularly constituted and controlled militia of either the Jewish or Arab State to defend or succour the city would be not only contrary to the plan of the General Assembly, but would inflame passions and might provoke a religious war. 'It is hardly necessary to point out the consequences of an intensi-

fied struggle between communities in this holy city of three world faiths. The whole of mankind is interested in the peace of Jerusalem. The United Nations would be dealt a severe blow if its efforts to maintain the sacred character of the city and preserve it as a possible centre of peace and harmony should end in a sanguinary struggle.'

17 Feb.—*Palestine*. It was decided to begin work on 22 February.

18 Feb.—*Palestine*. Mr Creech Jones (Great Britain) told the press that the British Government were being as helpful to the Palestine Commission as the physical facts of the situation there permitted. The great tragedy was that the General Assembly last autumn had allowed his plain statements and warnings to go unheeded. 'I made it clear then that there was no use in the Assembly passing a resolution involving partition unless the means of implementation and, if necessary, enforcement were provided. I said that British troops would not be used to enforce a solution to which either Arabs or Jews objected. I said that the only hope was an accommodation between the two parties, and that was the end to which the United Nations should strive.'

In a comment on the Commission's second report the Arab Higher Committee asked why Palestine should be selected for the enforcement of recommendations of the United Nations when they were being defied both in Korea and in the Balkans.

The Secretary General said the Jewish Agency had been informed that their document (*see p. 96*) could not be forwarded to the Council.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

9 Feb.—*Jerusalem*. It was learned that the special committee (U.S.A., Great Britain, France, China, Mexico, Australia) had completed the draft statute for the city of Jerusalem for submission to the Council.

10 Feb.—*Jerusalem*. The Jewish Agency gave notice of objections to 35 of the 45 Articles of the draft statute.

19 Feb.—Creech Jones statement (*see Palestine Commission*).

The United States delegate, referring to an allegation of the previous day by the Iraqi delegate that the U.S.A. had exerted extreme pressure on delegations and Governments to vote for partition in the General Assembly, said that he was instructed by his Government to say that the allegation was untrue and unsupported by facts and was completely rejected by his government.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

7 Feb.—The Session concluded at Geneva. The budget of \$6,367,995 was passed subject to approval by the World Health Assembly in June. The organization became permanently established with the ratification by twenty-five nations of its Constitution. In a programme of field medicine first place was given to malaria, which was regarded as one of the most important contributing causes to the world food shortage. It was stated that about 3 million deaths were caused each year by malaria, of which 300 million cases occurred.

WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE

13 Feb.—The Conference appointed a special sub-committee of the

Committee on Organization to consider proposals on the number of countries whose ratification was needed to put the world trade charter into force.

WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE (HAVANA)

19 Feb.—The Commercial Policy Committee adopted the general principle of most favoured nation treatment.

U.S.A. 7 Feb.—Van Fleet appointed (*see Greece*).

C.I.O. statement (*see W.F.T.U.*).

9 Feb.—*German Documents*. The State Department said that the Moscow allegation that the U.S.A. had published the documents 'in collaboration with Britain and France' was completely contrary to the truth (*see U.S.S.R.*).

10 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted unanimously in favour of making a single administrator, independent of the State Department, responsible.

11 Feb.—*Palestine*. Four questions were asked in a letter sent to the Secretary of State by thirty Congressmen. '1. Is it true that Great Britain is permitting arms to continue to be shipped to Arab nations, and if so does this interfere with the carrying out of the U.N. decision? 2. Do the activities of the Arab nations with respect to support of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine and the Arab League, or otherwise in their announced violent resistance to the U.N. decision, endanger the maintenance of international peace and security in terms of the U.N. Charter? 3. What will be the instructions of the U.S.A. to its delegate on questions referred by the Palestine Commission to the Security Council regarding the means for making effective the General Assembly's decision? 4. What is the U.S.A. prepared to do to help in the implementation of the U.N. decision?'

The Congress of Industrial Organizations and its President, Mr Philip Murray, were indicted by a federal grand jury in Washington on charges of violating the provision of the Taft-Hartley Act which forbids the spending of union funds for political purposes.

12 Feb.—*New Ambassador (see Great Britain)*.

The Department of Commerce announced that personal incomes in 1947 reached a new record total of \$197,000 million.

Western Union. Governor Dewey of New York said in a Lincoln Day address that the sixteen nations of Western Europe should form a military alliance.

European Recovery Programme. The State Department stated that the breaks in stocks and commodity markets of the last few days had put prices back where they were when the Marshall plan estimates were first made. With prices thus readjusted by depreciation the proposed \$6,800 million aid would again buy as much as it was intended that it should when the plan was laid down last October.

13 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee agreed to recommend the authorization of

\$5,300 million for the E.R.P. for the twelve-month period 1 April 1948 to 31 March 1949.

A State Department spokesman said that the U.S. Government had now no objection to the sixteen European Nations going ahead with a meeting after the end of this month. The British and French ambassadors had been advised of the Department's views.

Marshall Speech. In a relayed address to the National Farm Institute, the Secretary of State said that the danger of the American way of making decisions—by full and extended discussion—was that 'we become so preoccupied with the details that we lose sight of the great objectives of the European recovery programme'. He warned that the consequences of its success or failure would determine the survival of the kind of world in which democracy, individual liberty, economic stability, and peace could be maintained. 'The U.S.A. can, of course, decide that the risks and difficulties of this programme are too great, and do nothing. It can also attempt to meet the situation by half measures, which would be the equivalent of doing nothing. Even more tragic than the material effect of this default in American leadership would be the psychological impact. If we take such a decision, I think we must expect to see this very vital area of the world—western Europe and its industrial potentials, its skill, and its energy—pass under the same control which is now exercised over the satellite nations of eastern Europe. . . Even if this process were halted at the shores of the Atlantic, the impact would be deplorable upon the areas surrounding the European continent. Geography alone would mean that the Middle East and the entire Mediterranean area would be directly and similarly affected. The position of the British Isles, and the whole structure of the British Commonwealth, which has exerted a profound influence on the stability of the world and world trade, would be critically affected.' He added, 'And now, there is in progress a further development of this concert of free nations, and one of great importance to the future of Europe. On the recent proposal of the British Foreign Minister, they have passed beyond their agreements for economic co-operation to a consideration of a western European union. This development has been our great hope.'

Commodity Prices. The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Snyder, said at Atlanta that it was too early yet to appraise the effect of the recent price decline in commodity markets, but he saw no reason to believe that it was leading them into a depression. 'I am confident of that.'

Atom bomb research in Japan (*see Great Britain*).

14 Feb.—*Palestine.* Mr Marshall replied to the Congressmen's letter.

1. He referred to Mr Alexander's statement in the House of Commons on 4 February, and added, 'this Government has no information in its possession indicating that to date the continuance of British treaty shipments has interfered with the carrying out' of the Palestine resolution. 2. There had thus far been no overt acts which in the opinion of the Security Council had done so. The U.S.A. had persistently proclaimed its determination to see the provisions of the U.N. Charter complied with, and he assumed there would be observance of the

Charter. 3. 'In the absence of knowledge of the contents of the Palestine Commission's next report it has been impossible to formulate instructions to the U.S. representative on the Security Council.' 4. 'It is not possible for the Government to determine in advance the steps which may be necessary', until the Security Council received and studied the report of the Commission.

European Recovery Programme. Senator Taft, the Republican leader, stated that the \$5,300 million approved by the Foreign Relations Committee was too much. The most that the U.S.A. could afford was between \$4,000 and \$5,000 million.

Soviet Protest on German conference (*see Great Britain*).

Defence. The Secretary, Mr James Forrestal, announced that a National Civil Defence Organization was to be set up to meet a possible threat of atom bomb, guided missile, or bacterial warfare.

16 Feb.—*Greece.* In a second report on the progress of the Greek and Turkish aid programme the President said that Communist guerrilla warfare was directed not against the Greek army but against the Greek people and the destruction of Greek villages was only intended to render people homeless and force them into overcrowded urban centres where they became charges on the already overburdened state. 'This policy is sapping the economic strength of Greece at the same time that the American mission is seeking to build it up through reconstruction and economic assistance. The number of refugees in north Greece has swollen to more than 420,000, and this has caused a large part of the Greek national budget and of American aid funds to be spent on unproductive undertakings.' Continued economic assistance would be provided for Greece under E.R.P., but the President would be asking for additional military assistance soon. Yet the situation was not without encouragement. 'Greece is still a free country.'

Turkey. The President was able to report that the Turkish programme was proceeding in an orderly manner.

Palestine. It was announced that in an effort to prevent the spread of disorder in the Middle East the U.S. Government had in recent months 'addressed appeals to certain interested governments stressing the importance in the interest of Middle East security and world peace of the exercise of restraint in dealing with the Palestine situation. Some of the appeals were made direct by the President.'

17 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme.* The Senate Foreign Relations Committee formally approved the E.R.P. by a unanimous vote.

Palestine. Six men who pleaded in a Federal Court in New York to falsifying shipper's export declarations in an attempt to send 60,000 lbs. of T.N.T. to Palestine were given suspended sentences and placed on probation.

Japan. A letter from General MacArthur on policy towards Japanese industry was read in the Senate. He said he still believed in the policy of breaking up Japanese industrial combines. The free enterprise system could not be set up in Japan until the 'traditional pyramid of economic power' was destroyed. This was 'indispensable to the growth of democratic government and life'.

Arms purchase bill (*see Persia*).

18 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Secretary of State, Mr Marshall, said that the Pan-American Treaty negotiated at Rio de Janeiro in 1947 had no bearing on the Falkland Islands dispute. Claims of sovereignty in the Antarctic were made there but were not recognized by the U.S. delegation (*see also Argentina*).

China Programme. The President asked Congress for an appropriation of \$570 million to stop the deterioration of the Chinese economy. He added: 'Nothing which this country provides can even in a small measure be a substitute for necessary action that could be taken only by the Chinese Government.'

19 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. The A. F. of L., commenting on the proposed Trade Union Conference in London, said: 'Since the A. F. of L. originated the idea of such a Conference, it is unfortunate that the British T.U.C. has set a date for the meeting so prematurely.' The Federation was prepared to send a powerful delegation headed by its president if the T.U.C. would postpone the conference for three weeks beyond 8 March (*see also W.F.T.U.*).

20 Feb.—*China*. Giving evidence before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr Marshall said the provision of \$570 million would give China a 'breathing space' in which to take steps to stabilize its economy. He warned the U.S.A. against 'being put in the position of being charged with direct responsibility for the conduct of the Chinese Government and its political, economic, and military affairs.'

C.I.O. leaders visit Moscow (*see W.F.T.U.*). Saar agreement (*see Great Britain*).

U.S.S.R. 9 Feb.—*German Documents*. In a statement on the recent U.S. State Department publication 'Nazi-Soviet Relations 1939-41' (Dept. of State 3023), the Foreign Minister said the department had collaborated with the British and French Foreign Ministries 'to present a distorted picture of events, slander the Soviet Union, and undermine its influence as a fighter against aggressive and anti-democratic forces. This unilateral publication amounted to falsification of history. In view of it the Soviet Government felt entitled to make public secret documents captured by Soviet troops concerning relations between Hitler Germany and the other three governments, which the latter had concealed from public opinion.'

State Department correction (*see U.S.A.*).

11 Feb.—*German Documents*. A Foreign Ministry statement quoted secret German documents captured by Soviet troops as showing that Britain and Germany had a secret 'deal' in 1938 'to satisfy Hitler's annexationist appetites at the expense of other countries'.

13 Feb.—*W.F.T.U.* It was learned that the chairman of the Trade Union Council, M. Kuznetsov, had received a telegram from the president of the W.F.T.U., Mr Deakin, asking for a February meeting of the W.F.T.U. to discuss the E.R.P. and had replied, 'the policy of presenting ultimatums and dictates by separate Trade Union centres is unacceptable'. Until 'exhaustive explanation's on the scope of the

question to be discussed were received the Council could not 'either reject or confirm the necessity and urgency of discussing at the session of the W.F.T.U. executive bureau the questions raised by Mr Deakin'.

14 Feb.—*German Documents*. The Government published a third instalment of its reply to the U.S. publication.

Protest on German conference (*see Great Britain*).

16 Feb.—Republic of Northern Korea (*see Korea*).

18 Feb.—A Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance with Hungary was signed. It was for twenty years. The two countries undertook to consult each other on all important international questions affecting their countries and pledged themselves not to interfere in each other's internal affairs. M. Molotov said, 'After the signing of this Treaty the U.S.S.R. will have mutual aid pacts with all the states situated along her western frontiers.'

20 Feb.—C.I.O. leaders' visit (*see W.F.T.U.*). Reply to protest (*see France*).

VATICAN. 20 Feb.—*Albania*. News was received that Mgr Gjini, acting head of the Apostolic Delegation, and Mgr Volsj, Bishop of Sappa, had been condemned to death and executed for treason in Albania and that the Archbishop of Durazzo, Mgr Prennushi, had been sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment.

VENEZUELA. 19 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. Vice-Admiral Sir William Tennant, Commander-in-Chief of the British West Indies Naval Station, said that British sovereignty in the Falkland Islands 'will be maintained unimpaired'. The present status could be changed only by a dictum of the International Court. 'Argentina and Chile have little claim on the Falklands. Probably Spain has more.' He said that there was no possibility of a clash with the Argentine Navy. 'It would be sheer stupidity.'

WESTERN UNION. 7 Feb.—Benelux draft treaty (*see Great Britain*).

11 Feb.—Unden statement (*see Sweden*). Cripps on Africa (*see France*).

12 Feb.—Dewey statement (*see U.S.A.*). Spaak statement (*see Belgium*). *See also Norway*.

19 Feb.—Draft Treaty (*see Belgium*).

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. 7 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. M. Saillant, the Secretary-General, issued a statement in Paris replying to the demand of the T.U.C. (Great Britain) that a meeting of the executive bureau be held in mid-February to discuss the Marshall plan. It proposed a meeting in April instead, on the ground that the T.U.C. proposal was supported only by the C.I.O. (U.S.A.) and the Netherlands General Confederation of Labour, but opposed, 'for different and well established practical reasons', by the unions of Latin America, China, the U.S.S.R., Italy, and France.

Commenting in London, Mr Arthur Deakin, the President, said it had been decided at the Paris meeting of the bureau last November to

hold the next meeting before the end of February. 'It was only when the Soviet representatives refused to attend that others changed their opinion. The fact is that there is and has been a refusal to discuss the American aid proposal. If, therefore, the position is now that the W.F.T.U. is to be merely a political body dealing only with those questions acceptable to the U.S.S.R., we know where we stand.'

9 Feb.—The Secretary-General, M. Saillant, said that at the next session of the executive bureau in April there would be an opportunity to discuss the part to be played by the trade union organizations in the economic and social reconstruction of the post-war world. He counted on the good will of each of the members of the executive bureau not to embark on an impassioned argument on the simple question of date.

Tewson statement (*see Great Britain*).

13 Feb.—In a speech in London the secretary-treasurer of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (U.S.A.), Mr James Carey, offered to meet Soviet Trade Union leaders to discuss the present difficulties in the W.F.T.U. He strongly criticised the secretary-general, M. Saillant. He and his party had come to Europe for a meeting of the executive bureau which it had been unanimously agreed at the last meeting should be held in February. He found he was coming to a ghost meeting. The C.I.O. had not altered its opinion that consultation on U.S. aid to Europe among trade union centres was required. The C.I.O. would prefer it to take place within the framework of the W.F.T.U. But that it should take place was more important than the machinery by which the meeting was held. A meeting should be held as early as possible so that the resolution of the Labour movement might have some influence on the shaping of the E.R.P. in Washington. Describing the contribution made by the C.I.O. to the formulation of the Marshall Plan, he said that he and his colleagues resented the charges that it was a Wall Street plot.

Reply to President's telegram (*see U.S.S.R.*).

14 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. In a speech at Toulouse M. Saillant said that the Executive Council, although the majority appeared to be unfavourable to a study of E.R.P., would not refuse this study. He hoped 'that a certain American trade union movement which relies on the support of capitalist monopolies should not come and disturb the unity within the W.F.T.U.'

18 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. T.U.C. calls conference (*see Great Britain*).

19 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. M. Saillant said the calling of an international conference by the T.U.C. would be examined by the Executive Committee in April (*see p. 118*).

20 Feb.—It was announced that Mr James Carey and Mr Michael Ross of the C.I.O. would go to Moscow in an effort to reach understanding with Soviet trade union leaders.

YEMEN. 20 Feb.—Death of Imam Yahya (*see Arab League and Great Britain*).

YUGOSLAVIA. 9 Feb.—In a speech to shop-workers, Marshal Tito accused the U.S.A. of being the 'greatest enemy of peace'. He said: 'There will be no war because the people do not want war. This is a war of nerves.' He denied that Yugoslavia intended to attack Trieste or that it was meddling in Greece. 'The Marshall Plan will not aid the people of France, Britain or any other country. This is an imperialist policy directed against the political and economic life of the various peoples of Europe, and therefore highly industrialized countries like Switzerland, Sweden, and Denmark, and even non-industrialized Turkey, are hesitating to accept the plan for fear that their industries might be suffocated by dollar influence.'

14 Feb.—Conference on Germany (*see Poland*).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 26 Corfu Mining Case: International Court, The Hague.
- Mar. 1 Senate Debate on E.R.P., Washington.
- " 7 General Election in Italy.
- " 8 Trade Union Conference on E.R.P., London.
- " 21 West European Socialist Party Conference, London.
- " 23 U.N. Conference on Freedom of Information, Geneva.
- " 31 Election in Korea.
- May 15 Termination of British Mandate for Palestine.
- " 17 Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations, Geneva.
- June - U.N. Trusteeship Council, Lake Success.
- " - World Power Conference, Stockholm.
- " 1 Arab and Jewish States in Palestine to be formed.
- " 1 I.C.A.O. Conference, Geneva.
- " 4 International Socialist Conference, Vienna.
- " 17 I.L.O. Conference, San Francisco.
- July 12 Economic and Social Council, Geneva.
- Aug. 1 Completion of British withdrawal from Palestine.
- Sept. 27 British Africa Conference, London.
- Oct. 1 Arab and Jewish States to become independent.